

Boy Power for Prohibition

Suggestions to Local Committees
for organizing Boys in the
interests of Prohibition



ISSUED BY THE
ONTARIO REFERENDUM COMMITTEE
Boys' Department
Ryrie Building - Toronto

I. The Importance of Organizing Boys

1. Boys twelve years and over can be enlisted so as to be a great factor in organizing sentiment throughout the province in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The response which they will evoke may be stronger than can be obtained in any other way because of the fact that they will carry their convictions right into the homes of the people.

2. The fact that they have never before been organized for prohibition in a large way is important. The liquor forces are not prepared to cope with a movement like this, especially when it is introduced toward the close of the campaign.

3. The educative value of this campaign among boys is one of the most important considerations. In presenting the matter to boys' groups, reasons ought to be given why boys are expected to stand out against booze. These reasons ought to be so clear that boys will grasp them at once; and, when once boys decide, it is sure that they will always stand for their convictions. Moreover, the boys whom we reach to-day will be the voters of to-morrow. They will have much to do with the enforcement of the law.

II. How to Organize

1. *Get a boys' committee in each local centre* to work with the local Referendum Committee. For this Boys' Committee, secure men who are especially interested in boys and who have favorable contact with them. This committee should be representative of the various denominations and organizations working with boys in the city or community. Sunday School Superintendents, Leaders of Boys' Clubs,

Mentors and Boy Scout Leaders may be secured for this committee. The responsibility for the boys' share in the local campaign ought to be placed upon this committee; but all plans ought to be in harmony with the general plans of the campaign committee.

2. *Form a Boys' Council.* In some centres these are already organized, and it will only require that the workers present the matter to the existing organization with an appeal that they take it up.

Where such a council does not exist, the local committee will do well to secure representative boys who will, under their direction, engineer the campaign and actually do the work that is to be done.

III. What Boys Can Actually Do

1. *They can distribute the Folder.* specially prepared by the Referendum Committee, in every home in the community. The folder is so attractively prepared that the boys will master it quickly. They should be encouraged to put in a word at each home as they distribute it.

2. *They can explain the Ballot.* The reasons ought to be made clear to the boys why voters are asked by the Referendum Committee to vote "NO" on all four questions; the importance of marking the ballot with an "X" should also be explained to the boys. They ought to be asked to make these two points clear to the voters whom they reach.

3. Through Sunday-school classes and group meetings, boys ought to be reached and encouraged to discuss the issue. It would be far more profitable

for those who have an opportunity of meeting boys' groups to get the boys themselves to talk, rather than to go with the purpose of giving a set address to them. (See note.)

4. Boys can wear, during the last ten days or two weeks of the campaign, the special badges or buttons provided; this should bring them into prominence as an organized factor in the community.

5. Boys can assist scrutineers at the polling booths on the day of voting. Have a corps of boy workers, organized under a leader, present at each polling booth during the whole day of voting.

Arrangements ought to be made whereby these boys may be honorably excused from school for the day.

6. Arrangements could be made in each polling subdivision whereby boys who are not needed for the whole day at the polling booth could give part of it, under the direction of campaign managers, to calling upon voters who have not registered their ballot and urging them to do so.

7. Parades can be organized, preferably on the Saturday preceding the voting or, at any rate, within a few days of it. These parades may include not only older boys, but also older girls, and, in fact, all the young life of the community. Flags and banners ought to be conspicuous, and, where possible, bands ought to be secured. When parades are organized every effort should be made to make them a great success.

Note.—In some places special mass meetings for boys may be practicable. Selected older boys may also be used effectively as speakers in churches, Sunday schools and other meetings.